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I enclose a copy of Dr. Theodor D. Sterling's report, "A Critical Reassessment of the Evidence Bearing on Smoking as the Cause of Lung Cancer." Distribution for the time being should be limited.

This was just received and I understand that copies have been sent to the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The report is well worth reading and forms the basis, as we have previously indicated, for various future activities proposed by Dr. Sterling.

Among these is a strong effort to get the American Statistical Association to reexamine what Sterling calls the antecedents of lung cancer. It was believed that this could involve the development of a set of guidelines for possible future population studies.

We have now heard, from a number of sources, that the American Cancer Society has "reactivated" Hammond's earlier large-scale study and will reexamine associations involving lung cancer and other diseases. Copies of news articles reporting on this are enclosed.

General Counsel  
October 20, 1971  
Page Two

There are a number of possible explanations for this. Among them, certainly, is the increased interest in the effects of air pollution.

Dr. Sterling is concerned, rightly so in our opinion, that the American Statistical Association, if it moves at all, may not act in time to affect the ACS action. Dr. Sterling would like, therefore, permission to use the approximately \$20,000 left over from the special project grant provided to obtain and preliminarily examine the Hammond data to reconvene the panel which he used in that instance and ask them about guidelines which could be used in developing adequate large-scale population studies. (The advisory panel to that project is listed on page 101 of the enclosed report.)

Your early response is appreciated.



WILLIAM W. SHINN

WWS/r  
Enclosures

cc: Alexander Holtzman, Esq.